

MANGROVES

Mangrove forests grow in the tidal areas of tropical coasts, where saltwater and brackish water mix. The mangrove trees' root systems provide habitat and childhood homes for fish, crabs, and muscles. The forests also play an important role in protecting the coast.



2m

SEAGRASS BEDS

These underwater meadows are grazing grounds for many plant-eating sea dwellers, such as sea cows and turtles. They provide food and shelter to small and young animals, but also larger animals such as stingrays. Seagrass beds also produce a lot of oxygen and hold sand in place, just like land grasses.



10m

20m

CORAL REEFS

Coral reefs are extraordinary in many ways. They are not only the largest underwater structures created by life forms, but one of the most species-rich habitats in the world. Corals are the calcium skeleton of a symbiotic relationship of polyps and algae.



30m

40m

THE DEEP SEA

Below a depth of 200 meters, there is hardly any sunlight and therefore no plant-based sources of food. The water pressure is extreme. Despite this, there is a sophisticated ecosystem with fantastical-looking creatures perfectly adapted to these conditions, such as the anglerfish and the ghost shark. This is also the home of the mysterious giant squid.

200m

ANGLERFISH

Some species of deep-sea anglerfish have their own lanterns that use to lure prey. The sac contains bacteria that the fish can excite into lighting up.



OCEAN FLOOR

At its very deepest, the ocean floor is located some 11 kilometers below the surface. Life was only recently discovered here. The food chain begins with microorganisms that draw their energy from the hydrogen sulfide streaming out of black smokers. But there are also larger animals, such as sea stars and the Yeti crab.

11.000m